

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A process for producing nitrosonium ions comprising by oxidising a nitroxyl compound by subjecting the nitroxyl compound to the action of with an oxidising agent, ~~characterised in that the nitroxyl compound is oxidised~~ in the presence of a complex of a transition metal and a complexing agent.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A process according to Claim 1, wherein [[a]] the nitroxyl compound is a di-tert-nitroxyl compound[[,]] especially 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-oxyl (TEMPO).

Claim 3. (Previously presented) A process according to Claim 1, wherein the transition metal is manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper or vanadium.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) A process according to Claim 1, wherein the complexing agent is a nitrogen-containing compound.

Claim 5. (Original) A process according to Claim 4, wherein the complexing agent is a bipyridyl or a triazonane or a (poly)histidine.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A process for oxidising a carbohydrate comprising producing nitrosonium ions by oxidising a nitroxyl compound with an oxidising agent in the presence of a complex of a transition metal and a complexing agent, and subjecting the carbohydrate to the action of with an oxidising agent in the presence of a said nitrosonium ion as a catalyst~~[[,]] characterised in that the nitrosonium ion is produced by the process according to Claim 1.~~

Claim 7. (Currently amended) A process according to Claim 6, wherein the carbohydrate is an α -glucan or fructan or a carboxymethylated, alkylated, or hydroxyalkylated derivative thereof.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A process according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein a carbonyl-containing carbohydrate containing at least 1 cyclic monosaccharide chain group carrying a carbaldehyde group per 25 monosaccharide units and per average molecule is produced.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A process according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, wherein the carbohydrate is hydroxyalkylated carbohydrate or a glycoside.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) An oxidized carbohydrate, the carbohydrate being selected from disaccharides, oligosaccharides and polysaccharides of the α -glucan, mannan, galactan, fructan, and chitin types and carbohydrate glycosides, containing at least 1 cyclic monosaccharide chain group carrying a carbaldehyde group per 25 monosaccharide units and per average molecule or a chemical carboxymethylated, alkylated or hydroxyalkylated derivative thereof and further containing carboxyl and/or carboxymethyl groups.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) An oxidised carbohydrate according to Claim 10, containing at least 5 monosaccharide units per average molecule.

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Claim 12. (Currently amended) An oxidized carbohydrate, the carbohydrate being selected from disaccharides, oligosaccharides and polysaccharides of the α -glucan, mannan, galactan, fructan, and chitin types and carbohydrate glycosides, containing at least 1 cyclic monosaccharide group carrying a carbaldehyde group per 25 monosaccharide units and per molecule or a derivative thereof ~~A carbohydrate derivative according to Claim 10, in which~~ derivative at least a part portion of the carbaldehyde groups has been converted to a group with the formula $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-\text{R}$ or $-\text{CH}_2-\text{NHR}$, wherein R is hydrogen, hydroxyl, amino, or a group R^1 , OR^1 or NHR^1 , in which R^1 is C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_1 - C_{20} acyl, a carbohydrate residue, or group coupled with or capable of coupling with a carbohydrate residue.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) An oxidized carbohydrate, the carbohydrate being selected from disaccharides, oligosaccharides and polysaccharides of the α -glucan, mannan, galactan, fructan, and chitin types and carbohydrate glycosides, containing at least 1 cyclic monosaccharide group carrying a carbaldehyde group per 25 monosaccharide units and per molecule or a derivative thereof ~~A carbohydrate derivative according to Claim 10,~~ in which derivative at least a ~~part~~ portion of the carbaldehyde groups has been converted to a group with the formula $-\text{CH}(\text{OR}^3)-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{COOR}^2$ or $-\text{CH}(-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{COOR}^2)_2$, in which R^2 is hydrogen, a metal cation or an optionally substituted ammonium group, and R^3 is hydrogen or a direct bond to the oxygen atom of a dehydrogenated hydroxyl group of the carbohydrate.

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Claim 14. (Previously presented) A carbohydrate according to Claim 12, further containing carboxyl and/or carboxymethyl groups.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) A carbohydrate according to Claim 13, further containing carboxyl and/or carboxymethyl groups.
